

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01
INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02
SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 XMB-02 /138 W
-----113298 170849Z /20

P 161442Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9672
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 07492

USMTN

USEEC

PASS STR FOR ACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN
SUBJECT: BIG-3 STOCKTAKING WITH SECRETARIAT ON MAY 9

1. SUMMARY. GATT DG LONG CONVENED A STOCKTAKING MEETING
OF THE BIG-3 ON MAY 9. AFTER PROBING FOR INFORMATION
HE SAID OTHER DELS HAD PRESSED HIM FOR, US/EC/JAPAN
REPS ACCEPTED LONG'S PROPOSAL TO HOLD A SEVEN PLUS SEVEN
ON REQUESTS, OFFERS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS ON MAY 18. END
OF SUMMARY.

2. TARIFFS. GATT DG LONG OPENED SESSION BY ASKING WHERE
THE BIG-3 PLANNED TO BE IN TERMS OF AGREEMENT ON JULY 15--
HOW SPECIFIC WOULD THE RESULTS BE? HE FURTHER ASKED
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HOW OTHER DELEGATIONS COULD KEEP ABREAST OF CHANGES IN
OFFERS, BOTH IMPROVEMENTS AND WITHDRAWALS. HE SUGGESTED
MAJOR COUNTRIES CIRCULATE UPDATED STATUS OF OFFERS IN
EARLY JUNE. MCDONALD OBJECTED ON GROUNDS CIRCULATION TO
ALL PARTIES AS EARLY AS JUNE COULD CONTRIBUTE TO AN
EROSION OF THE FINAL RESULTS. HE SUGGESTED THAT
IMPROVEMENTS AND WITHDRAWALS ARE PART OF THE NEGOTIATING

PROCESS AND SHOULD BE MADE KNOWN AS AGREED BY THE PARTIES.

SAWAKI STATED THAT JAPAN WAS NOT NOW IN A POSITION TO INFORM OTHERS OF NEW OFFERS. HE SAID THAT WHEN JAPAN WAS READY TO IMPROVE ITS OFFERS, HE WOULD INFORM OTHER COUNTRIES. LUYTEN STATED THAT IT WAS EC'S AIM THAT THE TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS BE FINISHED ON JULY 15. HE SAID THAT THE EC WAS NOW DISCUSSING ITS OFFERS WITH MOST MAJOR DC'S AND SOME LDC'S. HE CAUTIONED THAT MANY LDC'S WERE ACTING LIKE BRAZIL, SAYING THAT THEY COULD NOT AFFORD IMPROVE THEIR OFFERS UNTIL THEY SAW WHAT SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT THEY WOULD GET. HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT A PROBLEM OF LDC'S NOT KNOWING WHAT WAS GOING ON, BUT SIMPLY THAT THEY DID NOT LIKE WHAT WAS GOING ON--HAVING TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS IN ORDER TO GAIN CONCESSIONS.

3. GRAINS. PATTERSON ASKED IN WHAT DIRECTION THE GRAINS TALKS WERE MOVING AND WHETHER THERE WAS A ROLE FOR THE GATT SECRETARIAT TO PLAY BEFORE THE 23RD OF JUNE. EC REPLIED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, AND THAT THEY EXPECTED A SOLID RECOMMENDATION FROM THE LONDON DRAFTING GROUP BY JUNE 23. BIG-3 REPS DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR THE GATT SECRETARIAT SHOULD DO ON GRAINS AT THIS TIME.

4. CODES. LONG AND PATTERSON INQUIRED ABOUT PROGRESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON THE NTM AND SAFEGUARDS CODES URGING BIG-3 TO ACCEPT MORE MULTILATERAL MEETING OF GROUPS AND SUBGROUPS OR AT LEAST INFORMAL SEVEN PLUS SEVEN SESSIONS. BIG-3 REPS POINTED OUT ALL INTERESTED LDC DELEGATIONS ARE BEING KEPT FULLY INFORMED, BIG-3 HAD NO OBJECTION TO GROUP MEETINGS WHEN PROGRESS MADE SUCH MEETINGS USEFUL, AND AGREED INFORMAL SEVEN PLUS SEVEN MEETINGS ON PARTICULAR TOPICS COULD CONTINUE AS IN RECENT MONTHS.

5. INDIVIDUAL NTMS. LONG ASKED ABOUT INDIVIDUAL NTM ISSUES AND THEIR PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE EC RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE PROCEEDING ON THESE BILATERALLY, AND THEY WOULD ANNOUNCE RESULTS WHEN SOMETHING WAS AVAILABLE. MCDONALD SUGGESTED THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE SMALLEST AREA OF JULY 15 RESULTS, NOTING TOUGH DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

6. PARTICIPATION OF NON-GATT COUNTRIES. LONG ASKED WHAT THE MAJOR DC'S POSITIONS WERE ON NON-CP'S, STATING THAT NON-CP'S SHOULD HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF THEIR OPTIONS. THE EC STATED THAT COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO BECOME CP'S IN ORDER TO GAIN THE BENEFITS OF THE CODES, OTHERWISE,

THERE WOULD BE AN INDUCEMENT NOT TO JOIN THE GATT. THE EC SUGGESTED THAT ACCESSION WOULD BE A GOOD CONTRIBUTION FOR AN LDC. LONG SUGGESTED THAT HE FAVORED ACCESSION OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS MEXICO AND IRAN AND MAYBE THAILAND AND VENEZUELA (PLUS CONVERSION OF PHILIPPINE PROVISIONAL ACCESSION TO FULL STATUS), BUT HE SAW NO POINT IN PRESSING SMALL LDC'S WHO ARE UNLIKELY TO PLAY A USEFUL ROLE EVEN IF THEY DID ACCEDE. THE EC AND THE US EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SOME OF THE COUNTRIES CITED BY DG COULD ACCEDE WITHIN THE TIME FRAME OF THE MTN.

7. SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS. TO ANSWER SOME OF BIG-3 POINTS RAISED IN MEETING AND LDC REQUESTS FOR MORE

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 XMB-02 STRE-00 /138 W
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P 161442Z MAY 78 ZDK
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9673
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 07492

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INFORMATION, LONG SAID HE WOULD CALL AN INFORMAL SEVEN PLUS SEVEN ON MAY 18. THE TOPIC WOULD BE REQUESTS, OFFERS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE FIELDS OF TARIFFS, NTM'S AND AGRICULTURE.

8. DRAFTED BY ROWNY. MCDONALD

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